

I am very concerned about the Broadband over Power Line (BPL) proposal made to the FCC by several utility companies. While I am all for free enterprise, such enterprise should not cause harm (in this case, harmful interference) to another form of enterprise. The "enterprise" I am writing about is radio communications enjoyed by citizens, licensed amateur radio operators and short wave listeners. Recent tests conducted by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) have shown a significant amount of interference to radio receivers on the High Frequency (HF) radio bands. The proliferation of BPL will severely diminish the ability of amateur radio operators (Hams) to communicate using HF because of the severe incidental noise generated by BPL signals. Hams have demonstrated over and over the ability to adapt to communications infrastructure breakdowns and provide communications when commercial and other private services cannot. BPL interference has the potential of destroying this Service. Plus, many citizens enjoy listening to shortwave broadcasts from foreign countries using relatively simple receivers in their homes. The reports from the ARRL on testing conducted in New England indicate that such shortwave reception would be destroyed. Tests have also shown that interference exists throughout the power grid served by low and medium voltage transmission lines. I would anticipate that the Citizens Radio Service (Citizens Band) would also be affected by this interference. Truckers and other drivers rely on Citizens Band to get timely highway and weather information from each other. BPL interference would render this useless or promote even more illegal high power transmissions from such users. We already have several excellent methods of distributing high speed, broadband signals to homes and businesses (i.e., TV cable, DSL over phone lines, microwave, etc.). I do not believe another method, which has been demonstrated to be a significant generator of radio frequency interference, is necessary. Several other countries have already chosen to abandon the use of BPL. I request the Federal Communications Commission deny the request to deploy Broadband over Power Lines in any state or territory of the United States.